

REMARKS

By this Amendment claim 2 has been amended to include most of the elements of claim 3; claim 6 has been amended to include most of the features of claim 9; claims 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15 and 16 have been revised; and claim 17 has been added. Entry is in order.

In the outstanding Office Action the examiner has rejected claims 1, 5, 11-13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panchanathan; he has rejected claims 7, 8 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panchanathan; he has rejected claims 2, 4, 6-8, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panchanathan in view of JP 1-13207; and he has stated that claims 3 and 9 contain allowable subject matter.

The applicant asserts that these rejections should be withdrawn.

The applicant submits herewith a verified translation of JP 11-255109, filed 9 September, 1999, which is the oldest priority application upon which this application is based. It can be easily seen that this Japanese application provides complete support for currently presented claims 1, 5, 7 (to the extent dependent on claim 5), 8 (to the extent dependent on claim 5), 11 (to the extent dependent on claim 5) and 12-16. Since this Japanese application has a date which is prior to the filing date of Panchanathan (September 29, 1999), the examiner's rejection against these claims must be withdrawn.

With respect to claims 2 and 6, since these claims now respectively include the essential elements of claims 3 and 9, the examiner's rejection

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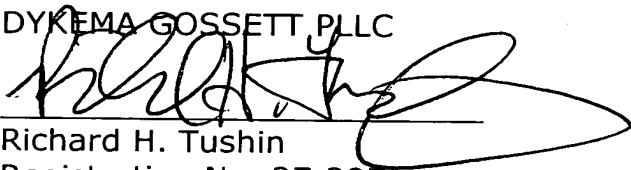
against these claims (and the claims dependent thereon) must be withdrawn.

Favorable reevaluation is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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